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OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

Generals Foster and Hunter in South Carolina—Movements Contemplated—The Great Rivers Blockade—Four Great Blows about to be Struck—Hopes and Fears—Gen. Foster's Plans—The Seventeenth Regiment Still Present—Love Sufferings—What Has Been and What may be done under them.

[Special Correspondence of the Chicago Tribune.]

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19, 1863.

Gen. Foster has not, despite the renewed reports to the contrary in circulation, had any difficulty as to rank with Gen. Hunter, unless he himself and the officers who came North with him lie. Both Generals are too much in earnest to quarrel over a punctilio. Gen Hunter the senior officer had the command of the Department, in the absence of Gen. Foster, who volunteers to take part in the impending movement and who is to be assigned a position and duties befitting his excellent military capacity and his special qualifications for the service to be performed.

THE ATTACK ON CHARLESTON AND SAVANNAH.

Gen. Foster came North in order to procure more troops and more ordnance. His visit did not retard Gen. Hunter's delay. "Our of the iron-clads has just been settled, and the others for removal of obstructions in the channels have but just been dispatched, and the military preparations are not entirely completed. It is intended that when the attack is made it shall be with combined forces which will insure the capture of Charleston and Savannah. If the iron-clads succeed alone, as the Navy Department and Admiral Dupont are confident they will do, there will be so much the less work for the army to accomplish. If they fail, the army will be in a position from which it can strike at either of the cities of rebellion, the work to be done is of a kind, to which Gen. Foster is not more unaccustomed than is his army to the victory which it is sure to win.

FOUR TERRIBLE CONFLICTS AT HAND—PROBABILITIES AND CONSEQUENCES.

If Dupont, Hunter and Foster capture the two cities which have so long defied the national forces, if Grant, Porter and Banks open the Mississippi, as the exploits of our gunboats, forecasting an issue similar to that at Island No. 10, lead one to hope; if Rosecrans be strong enough to strike, a battle being with him tantamount to a victory; if Hooker be not prevented by King Mud or General-in-Chief Strategy from dealing Lee's army of rebels a following blow within or after Hooker, as he is one of the few officers who understands the importance of following up a victory closely, until defeat becomes disaster and disaster, rout and rout, ruin, is sure to do—the rebellion will be inwardly crushed. Should all this be our success or, or even two of them, be secured, there need be no more talk about compromise, or boundaries. Confederation may as well make terms and give up the ghost. It may still require time to destroy the scattered forces of rebels still in arms and to inter decently their Northern allies, but the final result is certain.

THE AMERICAN ARMY BOUND HELPLESS IN SECESSIONARY.

The report of the Military Committee of the Senate, adverse to the House bill for the organization of an Army of Observation, on the ground that existing laws confer all the power required for the purpose, does not, by a long shot, silence Mr. Schofield's proposition for establishing stations in the States exempted from the operation of the Proclamation of Freedom.

THE PRESENT LAW ON THE STATUTE BOOK AND ITS PRACTICE.

This position is undoubtedly correct in the abstract, as is evident from the phraseology of the following sections of the law of July 17, 1862:

SEC. 12. *And be it further enacted*, That the President may make at any time and place he may deem suitable for the purpose, such rules and regulations for the government of the forces to be employed in the service of the United States, for the purpose of constructing intrenchments, or performing camp service or any other labor, as he may judge necessary or useful for the safety or efficiency of said forces; and such persons shall be employed as aforesaid, and shall render any such service as is provided for in this section, as the President may direct, and while employed as aforesaid shall receive the pay and allowances of privates in the service to which they may be assigned, and shall be subject to such rules and regulations, not inconsistent with the Constitution and laws, as shall be prescribed by the President for the government of the forces in which they may be employed.

SEC. 13. *And be it further enacted*, That when any man or boy of African descent who, by the laws of any State, shall owe service or labor to any person, who during the present rebellion shall have given aid or comfort to the rebels, or any of them, shall escape from such service or labor, or shall be compelled by his master to abandon the same, or shall be forced into the service of the rebels, and shall come within the lines of the national forces, or shall be taken or brought within the power of the officers or loyal forces of the United States, every such person and his wife and children shall forever thereafter be free, any law, usage or custom to the contrary notwithstanding; provided that no person hereafter held as a slave by any person who shall hereafter give aid or comfort to the rebellion, or any of the persons engaged therein, shall be delivered up or returned to such claimant, or to any claimant, unless such claimant shall first make oath that the person to be delivered up or returned has never given aid or comfort to the rebellion, and shall also give bond with good and sufficient surety, payable to the United States, in such sum as may be fixed by the Court or officer before whom the proceedings are had, conditioned that the person to be delivered up or returned has never given aid or comfort to the rebellion, which bond shall be void and of no effect if such person shall prove to be disloyal.

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This position

Chicago Tribune.
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1863.

COL. SHERMAN'S LETTER.

Colonel T. T. Sherman's letter, printed herewith, will attract the special attention of our readers in this city where the writer is well known, and as an expression of opinion by a Democrat, will not be without great influence in all other parts of the Northwest. Colonel Sherman is the son of U. S. Sherman, Esq., of this city, late candidate for Congress against Mr. Arnold, and now our Mayor. The Colonel himself was, and we suppose is, a Democrat. As such he entered the service of his country, and we have no reason to suppose that he has abandoned or, in any material manner, modified his political principles. But in the presence of the enemy and surrounded by men like himself who have made great sacrifices of a pecuniary nature and of personal comfort to serve their country, he has a keener insight into the motives of a portion of his late associates and the effect of their machinations, than he would have had simply as a citizen of Illinois; hence, it might be expected of a man who did such gallant deeds as Murfreesboro, he does not hesitate to administer a keen and stinging rebuke to those who, as he can see plainly enough, are fighting for that foe against which he contends. His words will have the greater weight when it is known that they were written just after his return to his regiment from a visit at the North, during which he not only had free and unreserved communication with his political associates, but the opportunity of listening and getting at the meaning of the debates in our Legislature, then in session, of what he saw and heard during his visit, and as an expression of what he and fellow-soldiers of that brave army think. It was written to a valued friend to whom we are indebted for a copy for a use that we are sure was not contemplated by the gallant Colonel himself.

GEN. McCLELLAND.

We have noticed several paragraphs in different public journals, charging Gen. McClellan with the responsibility of the failure of the Federal attack upon the enemy's works near Vicksburg. It is true that the Secretary of War had assigned to him the command of the Mississippi Expedition, and that the President had signified to the General-in-Chief his desire that Gen McClernan should have command of that Expedition. But it is equally true, that while Gen. McClernand was on duty at Springfield Illinois, in forwarding troops from Indiana, Illinois and Iowa, for the Expedition, Gen. Halleck gave the command of the Expedition to Gen. Grant. This was as far back as the 8th of December last, and Gen. Grant gave the immediate command to Gen. Sherman.

On the 16th of December, the President, coming to know this fact, caused Gen. Halleck to direct Gen. Grant to place Gen. McClernand in immediate command; but the order was not notified of this until the 22d, by a dispatch dated on the 21st. In the meantime, Gen. Sherman had descended the Mississippi, at the head of the Expedition; and when Gen. McClernand reached Memphis and reported to him, Grant for orders, the Expedition was already repulsed near Vicksburg.

This conflict of authority and orders is serious. It is clear, however, that President designed and had ordered that Gen. McClernand should have command, and that General Halleck frustrated the design. The responsibility of the failure of the expedition attaches to others than Gen. McClernand.

Gen. McClernand assumed direction of the expedition after it had returned to Milliken's Bend, and on the same day sailed for the Post of Arkansas, and reduced that place, capturing more than 5,500 prisoners and all the enemy's materiel of war found there. This blow, probably, would have been followed by another upon Little Rock, and the enemy would have been driven south of the Arkansas River, but was arrested by an order from Gen. Grant, to return to Milliken's Bend, who censured Gen. McClernand for his operations in Arkansas. The country, however, fully sustains him. It wants results and this was one which came upon it as suddenly as agreeably.

Returning to the vicinity of Vicksburg, Gen. McClernand disembarked his forces and took up positions opposite, above and below the city, cut off the enemy's communications, by water, below the city by planting batteries on the river bank, and in this position was awaiting the co-operation of Gen. Banks when Gen. Grant arrived, and on the 29th assumed control of the expedition and reduced Gen. McClernand to the command of the 13th Army Corps, and charged it with garrisoning the west bank of the Mississippi River from Helena south.

It is understood that Gen. McClernand protested against this measure as contrary to the order of the President and Secretary of War, and unjust to him as the projector of the Expedition. It remains to be seen what the authorities at Washington will do in the case. What Gen. McClernand has undertaken to do he has done well. We hope Gen. Grant will be more successful in conducing this great enterprise than he was in conducting the enterprise against Grenada.

ENGLISH SYMPATHY WITH THE NORTH.

The old adage tells us very truly that one story is good until the other is heard; and we all know how easy it is to prejudge a case by an *ex parte* statement. The rebels, acting upon this knowledge, did their best at the outbreak of the war to prejudice both France and England against the North, and enlist their aid and sympathy to the Southern cause.

So energetic were they, and so ubiquitous was their action, that for a time, at least, they were partially successful. They bribed the press, sent agents into official and unofficial circles with instructions to make converts at any price, and were well nigh securing the pledges of France and England to recognize the so-called Southern Confederacy as a distinct and independent power.

Hard as it is to forgive, and impossible to forget the conduct of these great European Governments in this matter, it is consoling to find that the progress of the war has materially changed their opinions and policy—that England, after mature deliberation, thinks it best neither to make nor meddle with our affair, and that France, although longing to have something more than a finger in the American pie, confines herself, for the present, to overtures of mediation!

The apathy and indifference of these governments to the mighty issues which are involved in this war, have been magnificently rebuked during the past few weeks, by the grand national demonstrations which have taken place throughout England, in favor of President Lincoln and the cause for which we are fighting. Since the passage of the Reform Bill, there has never been such enthusiasm manifested by the people. Not one large city alone, but every commercial and manufacturing town all through the Island, has mustered its thousands and tens of thousands in public meeting assembled, and proclaimed with one voice, one heart—and one soul, that they are unreservedly on the side of the North, and opposed to the wicked rebellion which the South has arrayed against us.

Similar meetings were held at Bradford Bristol, Stroud, and other large towns, on the same evening, and there can no longer be any doubt of the universal sentiment of England upon this momentous subject, however tardy has been the expression of it.

NEW YORK CANAL TOLLS AGAIN.

The editor of the New York *Evening Post* knows the people of the West well enough to be aware that they will not be turned from any legitimate and proper purpose, to which they are impelled by considerations which touch alike their honor and their interest, by any number of epithets with which they may be saluted by the New York journals. And the *Post* should know, too, when it flings words so offensive as "Secessionists" and "Copperheads" at the people of Illinois, because their Legislature saw fit to authorize the sending of Commissioners to the Provincial Government in Canada, to ask, as a commercial favor, not a political measure, the opening of new facilities for the transit of Western produce to tide-water, through Canadian rivers and canals, that they have only their resentment to expect. The commercial men to whose wise foresight that authorization is due, know what obedience they owe to the Constitution, what their rights under that instrument are, and just how far, in defense of their business interests, they can go toward forming alliances with foreign Governments. They require no further instruction on these points.

We tell the *Post* plainly what the matter is: The commercial system of New York is intolerable, and our people have groaned under it until every instinct of self-preservation demands relief. Our industry is grievously and unnecessarily taxed, and the avidity that should mark the intercourse of the different States is outraged by the burden upon our staples that New York imposes, and our people are unanimous in their determination to seek in new channels, though they lead through Canada, the relief that New York denies. And they are in earnest. Epithets will not turn them from their purpose. They handle a matter of vital concern, upon which hangs the possibility of future political combinations of absorbing interest and importance, as well as the immediate prosperity of the Northwest, and we assure the East that they will be neither bullied, coaxed nor awed into silence. Since the first claims of the West have been denied by Congress at the instance of men like that nincompoop Conkling and the dog-in-the-manger Pennsylvanian, the Western men who have heretofore been submissive in the hope of better things by and by, are compelled to speak; and now they mean vastly more than they say!

☞ The base opposition of Pennsylvania to the Illinois Ship Canal will not soon either be forgotten or forgiven "out West." In the present Congress Illinois has but nine votes, Iowa two, and Missouri seven—total eighteen; while Pennsylvania has twenty-five. In the next Congress, Illinois will have fourteen, Iowa six, and Missouri nine—total twenty-nine; and Pennsylvania twenty-four. The scales will then be bravely turned. The interest of these three Western States in the construction of that canal is as great and general as that of Pennsylvania in her high protective tariff. If the former measure goes through Congress against Pennsylvania opposition, the latter will come down a few pegs in despite of her opposition.

Illinois is as important to the nation as Pennsylvania. Her flour, wheat, corn, sorghum, cattle and swine contribute vastly more to the national necessities, commerce and wealth than the high tariff created iron of the State that has shown such dastardly hostility to the Illinois Ship Canal.

The sons of Illinois have poured out more blood, and her people have made far greater sacrifices to save the Union, than have those of Pennsylvania. Illinois volunteers have snatched victory from the foe in scores of battle fields at the point of the bayonet. Can Pennsylvania say as much of her style of fighting? While the one State has been struggling like a giant to overthrow the demon rebellion, the other has been fattening on contracts and high protection, and her delegation in Congress have been chiefly intent in defeating a great measure of national defense, in which the people of Illinois have a deep interest, both naval and commercial. Let Pennsylvania be aware of the consequences of this exhibition of meanness and selfishness toward the young giant of the West. There will be a settlement day.

The Copperheads vs. General Rosecrans.

Gen. Rosecrans has excited the ire of the "Copperheads." The whole slimy crew are hissing at his heels. The Cincinnati *Enquirer* is especially venomous. It denounces his patriotic letter to the Ohio General Assembly as the "production of an ingrafted and disappointed party-politician," accuses him of having "lent himself" to the "Abolitionists;" speaks of him as a "fallen" man, and patronizingly remarks that while it has "no right to refrain from censure, feelings of pity struggle with its sense of the duty to condemn."

And this because Gen. Rosecrans has had the audacity to say the "war must go on," even in spite of the efforts of the Copperheads to stop it! But he can afford to treat their assaults with contempt. Strong in the affections of his followers—strong in the confidence of the loyal people—strong in the faith that the cause he defends is a righteous one—he will win new victories and establish new claims to the gratitude of his countrymen. And long after the wretched crew who are playing the part of scavengers for Southern traitors in the North have gone down to dishonored graves, his name will be a household word and his memory affectionately remembered.

A Valuable Cargo.

The cargo of the steamer Princess Royal, now at Philadelphia, has been all taken out except some machinery. As the cases have not yet been opened, it is not known what number of small arms she had on board. But two heavy pieces of ordnance were found, said to be 70-pounders. A large quantity of steel-pointed, conical shot, such as Beauregard used upon our iron-clads from Charleston harbor, has also been found. There are some hundreds of cylindrical bars of hollow cast steel of metal, ready for casting into shot. The machinery and everything is of the best description. The drugs include large lots of quinine, and extensive orders, whose price in the market has now nearly or more than doubled, and in some cases quadrupled. The estimated value of the cargo is a million of dollars. The early discharge of the cargo is to facilitate the delivery of the vessel to the Navy Department at her appraised value. As she is represented to be very fast, it is believed that she will be one of the swiftest vessels of the blockading fleet.

C. L. Vallandigham.

Mr. C. L. Vallandigham takes the trouble to write a letter to the New York *Tribune*, in which he denies that he is a Dissolutest, the *Tribune* having declared him to be one on the strength of his reported speech at Newark, N. J., a few evenings since. C. L. says he declared in that speech that he was in favor of the Union as it was, which he hoped to restore by peace and compromise. The grounds of this hope he does not give. Facts which occurred during the Newark meeting, however, tend to disprove this life-loyalty of the Copperhead Chief. According to the report of the meeting, the demonstrations made by the audience were of an unmistakable treasonable character, and it is not denied by Mr. Vallandigham that he rebuked the disloyal manifestations. On the contrary, the very head of expression he used were intended to invite their utterance. Here are some specimens of the cheers that which were shown to have occasion, all of them, it will be seen, in response to questions which look as if they, with the answers, were agreed upon and rehearsed previous to the then public occasion:

"Shall we submit?" "Never!" "Shall Jackson" the patriots shouted with delight. " " When " the speaker said: "If in 1776 and your sons " to the battle field!" overwhelming, continued " astic cries of 'No!' 'No!' 'Never!' 'Never!' " 'God forbid!' 'Not if I know myself,' &c., came from all parts of the house. "Shall " they be conscripted for two years more and " for the negro?" he asked, with a tremendous " outburst of yells, cheers, cries of 'No!' " 'Never!' 'Let them try it!' 'We defy them,' " was the response."

These responses by the dozens, who, unfortunately, had been arranged in position through the crowd, if not by the great body of the assemblage itself, prove that with the smooth professions of loyalty and Unionism made by Vallandigham, he allowed them to pass without rebuke.

There was one feature about this Newark meeting and the speech of Vallandigham, which should attract the attention of all loyal men. The meeting passed resolutions against the introduction of free negroes into New Jersey, declaring them to be nuisances and injurious to white labor. Mr. Vallandigham, in his letter to the *Tribune*, avows his strong wish that that State, and every other free State, should so amend its laws, as to admit the transit through and temporary residence in—which means an indefinite period—of any slaves who are accompanied by their masters. That is to say, Sambo is not a disturbing element when working for wages, but just the thing when he works for nothing. As a free laborer he stands in the way of the white laborer, but as a helot, performing the same tasks under the lash, he would be in the way of nobody. Perhaps the Copperheads see no inconsistency in this. If there usual logic in these matters is good for anything, there is no inconsistency.

WAR ITEMS.

There are twenty-six buildings used for hospitals in Nashville, Tenn.

—Gen. Hooker said at the battle of Antietam that he would rather be killed in the afternoon than wounded in the morning.

—It is understood that the opposition of Secretary Seward is now the only obstacle to the restoration of Grant to the command of the Department of the Gulf.

—The Nashville *Union* thinks that the best thing our Government could do with the compromise politicians in the present crisis, would be to send them to the Court of the Grand Turk to serve as Eunuchs."

—Mrs. Gen. Tom Thumb is a little patriot. She has a brother in the Union service, and at the White House levee said, if necessary, she was entirely willing for her husband to volunteer!

—The Committee on the Conduct of the War will probably recommend not to print their report about Franklin's interference with Burnside's plans at Fredericksburg and subsequently, for the sake of the good of the service.

—Among the inmates of the Old Capitol Prison at Washington, is a Pennsylvania Captain whose offence is persuading twenty-three of his company to desert, that he might be able to resign on the ground that he had but half a company, and his services were not needed.

—The Louisville *Journal* remarks that the late repulse at Fort Donelson has pretty effectually put an end to all rebel operations on the Cumberland River, as they appear to have abandoned that stream to the Federal gunboats and free navigation.

—The stone fleet sunk off Charleston, on which so many plumed the mselves as a success, and over which John Bull became so indignant at the time and after, has actually improved the harbor of Charleston. It is now deeper than ever in the channel, and is reported much better generally.

—It is intended to have the chain of forts around Washington covered with mines, and they exploded at any escape of the foe, and at any point, either singly or in volleys, by the signal officer in charge, and thus effectually prevent any movement of the enemy against the forts, and aid materially in their defence.

—Commander Preble, who was dismissed from the naval service, for allowing the pirate Oreto to run the blockade into Mobile, has been finally restored. It is said the Naval Board were unanimous in this decision.

—The only way to get a just and honorable peace is to fight for it. So stand forth, ye peace men, with those goodly instruments of peace, the musket and bayonet.

—The correspondent of the Philadelphia *Inquirer*, with Gen. Sigel's command has been arrested by order of General Hooker, at Stafford Court House, and taken to Falmouth. He is charged with having sent incorrect and exaggerated reports of recent movements, and also for furnishing contraband information for publication in that paper.

☞ As we predicted they would, the Democratic Copperheads of Connecticut have nominated the infamous Tom. Seymour for Governor. This beats Western Copperheadism. This man has been a malignant and outspoken opposer of the war for the Union from the assault upon Fort Sumter to this hour. He has continually expressed sympathy for the rebels. He has made no secret of his treasonable proclivities; but has at all times and on all occasions assailed the Government with coarse vituperation. He made such an ostentatious and indecent display of disloyal sympathies, that he was socially tabooed among his own neighbors. His portrait was taken down from its place in the State Hall by order of the Legislature. He was denounced as a miserable tool of Jeff. Davis by the Democratic press of New England, and read out of the party by Democratic Conventions. And now this man is nominated for Governor by the same men who, one year since, pretended to spurn him from all association with them. Could political infamy reach a deeper depth?

HOSPITAL FOR DISABLED SOLDIERS.—A project is on foot in New York State for the erection of a hospital for disabled soldiers. It is a thoughtful and humane proposition. Many of the brave men who have fought our battles, and will continue to do so to the end, will come out of the war maimed and disabled. A home should be provided for all such, who have no homes of their own to go to. And such a home should be provided by the people of every loyal State. A joint committee of the Legislature of New York has the matter under consideration, and will report a bill. In anticipation of its passage, the citizens of Auburn, in that State, have tendered gratuitously 200 acres of land, in the immediate vicinity of that city, for the purpose.

☞ Hon. Joshua R. Giddings, American Consul General at Montreal had a narrow escape on Saturday morning last. A fire broke out in the hotel where he resides, and before he could escape he became insensible from the effects of the vapor and smoke, and was carried for safety to another part of the hotel. He afterward revived, and the next forenoon was much improved. The books and papers of the consulate escaped uninjured.

REBEL CRUELTIES.—A Fortress Monroe correspondent of a New York paper says it has come to his knowledge that Daniels, the editor of the Richmond *Examiner*, has had a quarrel with the Confederate authorities, and has told them that the whole tribe were a whining lot of cowardices, and he should not hesitate to publish this opinion to the world. The Government has prohibited the *Examiner* being sent North.

☞ The New York *World* thinks, if the Emancipation proclamation was revoked, a perfect union of sentiment could be effected at the North. But the *World* should remember that there was no such feeling found with the Administration before or since the issue of the Proclamation. Nothing will satisfy the unconditional peace Democracy but a humiliating surrender to the rebels. That is really what they desire, but they dare not say so.

COL. FRANK SHERMAN'S LETTER.

A Dolorous Rumbles the Copperheads in Eloquent Terms.

THE SOLDIERS ALL LOYAL.

CAMP ON STONE'S RIVER, Tenn.—
Feb. 12, 1863.

DEAR SIR: I arrived safely here to my regiment on the 19th, and found that some very important changes had taken place during my brief absence from the field. Col. Grousel and Stevens had resigned, which left me the senior Colonel in my brigade, and, consequently, the commander of it. I am now installed as commanding the 1st Brigade, 2d Division, 20th Army Corps. The position has all the responsibilities of a Brigadier General, and I shall endeavor to do my duty as heretofore. Although it is with great diffidence that I step into the shoes of the late Brigadier General Hill and Col. Grousel, who have so ably commanded us. Our brigade is considered one of the best in the service. It made a noble record in the recent terrible battle of Stone's River. The 88th numbers now 400 men in camp. We will not be able to report a larger number than the above, unless the strength of the regiment is increased by recruiting. Governor Morton has appointed a recruiting agent here, and we have now with the regiment two sentence resounding with Jacksonian ring. The people of Ohio do not know Col. Sam. A. Gilbert. The traitors and bush-whackers of Western Virginia do. He is a native of Ohio, resident at Zanesville. Early in 1861 he was appointed Lieutenant Colonel of the 24th Ohio volunteer infantry, then commanded by Colonel (now Brigadier General) Jacob Ammen. The regiment soon took position in the first rank among Ohio armies. It arrived at Clarksville, Virginia, in July, 1861, and the excellence of its discipline immediately attracted the attention of Gen. Rosecrans. The police of its camp elicited the encomiums of the soldiers. Said Gen. Rosecrans to an officer: "If you want to see a military camp, go and look at Gilbert's." The writer of this is ready to testify that it was the neatest and most perfectly policed camp he has seen during the war. Colonel Ammen was then commandant of the post of Clarksburg, and the administration of the regiment devolved chiefly upon Lieutenant Colonel Gilbert. It never lost its character. Its valor and firmness at Stone River attested the excellence of its early as well as its later training. It first made history for itself at Cheat Mountain, and its record reflects proud honor upon its soldiers, and upon all who have commanded it.

When the President made the second requisition for three-year volunteers, Lieutenant Colonel Gilbert was appointed Colonel of the 94th regiment, and it was ordered into Western Virginia. The peculiarities of discipline and neatness which had characterized the 24th soon made the 94th conspicuous. In the spring of 1862, it signalized itself in a brilliant action under Brigadier General Crook, in the mountains which circumvallate the tributaries of the Kenawha. Colonel Gilbert distinguished himself by his courage, coolness and skill. He was known "there, and subsequently as one of the best of the veteran regiments of Western Virginia. We dare say that at Frankfort it is distinguished for the same traits which signalized it and the 24th in Western Virginia. This excellence in the regiment indicated character, skill and zeal in the officer—attributes which all of his commanders have acknowledged handsomely.

Col. Gilbert is probably about thirty-five years of age. He is a man of vigorous character, and the public are now ready to confess that he possesses firmness and determination. He was never a politician, in the popular sense of that term, but prior to the war he was an earnest Democrat. In his speech to the Kentucky Copperheads, he says with fine scorn: "Under the disguise of that good old name, they would pervert loyalty, to whatever party they may belong. The soldiers here, recognize, in the President, one who is constitutionally authorized to administer the laws and direct the operations of the army and navy. As Commander-in-Chief he has the undoubted right to issue orders and proclamations that he may deem, expedient, in peace, or in war, and whatever exigencies of the service require it, to suppress armed rebellion against the Government that he, as its Chief Magistrate, has sworn to protect. We, the soldiers of the United States, called forth to save the country, dropped our political differences when we entered its service, and took the oath that we would obey the "orders" of the President of the United States, and we intend to do it; and every officer and soldier that I have talked with, in regard to our duty, agrees with me; that we will sustain, to the death, our Commander-in-Chief, the President of the United States, in all measures and orders that he may issue for the crushing of the rebellion in the Southern States; and we call on the North to lay aside their bitter feelings, engendered by strife for power, and unite, and come up with a steady front on the warpath, and demonstrate that it is the determination of the North, at all hazards, to furnish men and means to prosecute this war to a finality; that traitors shall be punished; and, my word for it, this war will not last one year longer. Those of us who are left, can lay down our arms and return to our homes, and we shall again have a happy and prosperous country, respected and feared by all the nations of the earth. Peace, the mad policy of parties, will be established, and our gallant boys will then navigation.

—The stone fleet sunk off Charleston, on which so many plumed the mselves as a success, and over which John Bull became so indignant at the time and after, has actually improved the harbor of Charleston. It is now deeper than ever in the channel, and is reported much better generally.

—It is intended to have the chain of forts around Washington covered with mines, and they exploded at any escape of the foe, and at any point, either singly or in volleys, by the signal officer in charge, and thus effectually prevent any movement of the enemy against the forts, and aid materially in their defence.

—Commander Preble, who was dismissed from the naval service, for allowing the pirate Oreto to run the blockade into Mobile, has been finally restored. It is said the Naval Board were unanimous in this decision.

—The only way to get a just and honorable peace is to fight for it. So stand forth, ye peace men, with those goodly instruments of peace, the musket and bayonet.

—The correspondent of the Philadelphia *Inquirer*, with Gen. Sigel's command has been arrested by order of General Hooker, at Stafford Court House, and taken to Falmouth. He is charged with having sent incorrect and exaggerated reports of recent movements, and also for furnishing contraband information for publication in that paper.

☞ As we predicted they would, the Democratic Copperheads of Connecticut have nominated the infamous Tom. Seymour for Governor. This beats Western Copperheadism. This man has been a malignant and outspoken opposer of the war for the Union from the assault upon Fort Sumter to this hour. He has continually expressed sympathy for the rebels. He has made no secret of his treasonable proclivities; but has at all times and on all occasions assailed the Government with coarse vituperation. He made such an ostentatious and indecent display of disloyal sympathies, that he was socially tabooed among his own neighbors. His portrait was taken down from its place in the State Hall by order of the Legislature. He was denounced as a miserable tool of Jeff. Davis by the Democratic press of New England, and read out of the party by Democratic Conventions. And now this man is nominated for Governor by the same men who, one year since, pretended to spurn him from all association with them. Could political infamy reach a deeper depth?

HOSPITAL FOR DISABLED SOLDIERS.—A project is on foot in New York State for the erection of a hospital for disabled soldiers. It is a thoughtful and humane proposition. Many of the brave men who have fought our battles, and will continue to do so to the end, will come out of the war maimed and disabled. A home should be provided for all such, who have no homes of their own to go to. And such a home should be provided by the people of every loyal State. A joint committee of the Legislature of New York has the matter under consideration, and will report a bill. In anticipation of its passage, the citizens of Auburn, in that State, have tendered gratuitously 200 acres of land, in the immediate vicinity of that city, for the purpose.

☞ Hon. Joshua R. Giddings, American Consul General at Montreal had a narrow escape on Saturday morning last. A fire broke out in the hotel where he resides, and before he could escape he became insensible from the effects of the vapor and smoke, and was carried for safety to another part of the hotel. He afterward revived, and the next forenoon was much improved. The books and papers of the consulate escaped uninjured.

REBEL CRUELTIES.—A Fortress Monroe correspondent of a New York paper says it has come to his knowledge that Daniels, the editor of the Richmond *Examiner*, has had a quarrel with the Confederate authorities, and has told them that the whole tribe were a whining lot of cowardices, and he should not hesitate to publish this opinion to the world. The Government has prohibited the *Examiner* being sent North.

☞ The New York *World* thinks, if the Emancipation proclamation was revoked, a perfect union of sentiment could be effected at the North. But the *World* should remember that there was no such feeling found with the Administration before or since the issue of the Proclamation. Nothing will satisfy the unconditional peace Democracy but a humiliating surrender to the rebels. That is really what they desire, but they dare not say so.

THE BATTLE OF FORT DONELSON.

The Part Taken by Col. Harding.

Illinois Citizen Tribune:

MONMOUTH, Ill., Feb. 14, 1863.

In the report of your Cairo correspondent of the 10th inst., there is evidently manifest injustice done our brave Col. Harding, and the men under his command. In that ever memorable and hard fought battle at Fort Donelson, on the 15th inst. His name was conspicuously appeared. Col. Harding ordered the firing to cease, and drew his men into as small a compass within the works as possible, that they might not be injured by shot and shell, and awaited the result, giving the consolation of the battle entirely to the fleet. Now I have it from the authority of Lieut. Clark and various letter writers to their friends in this county, giving a full description of the battle. Col. Harding regulated successfully by the forces and kept them in the best order. Some two miles from the scene of battle at least one hour before the arrival of the gunboat fleet. The rebels doubtless designed receiving the engagement again in the morning, and were doubtless deterred by the unfriendly interference on the part of the gunboats. Col. Harding left a home, peace and luxuries with no view to renown, but to battle for his country, and was rewarded by the unfriendly interference of the gunboats. Col. Harding left a home, peace and luxuries with no view to renown, but to battle for his country, and was rewarded by the unfriendly interference of the gunboats. Col. Harding left a home, peace and luxuries with no view to renown, but to battle for his country, and was rewarded by the unfriendly interference of the gunboats.

A Soldier's Letter.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Feb. 7, 1863.

Editors Chicago Tribune:

In the perusal of your paper, lately, I have been made to become very much embittered against some of our Illinois men.

I wish all those politicians, who feel enough to offer resolutions, in Illinois, that the soldiers be instructed, not to enforce the President's Emancipation Proclamation, were in the South, and in the secesh army, where they ought to be. I would like to be one of the first to draw the heart's blood of all such scandalous villains. I would just like to hear of the people of Illinois "cleaning out" (by the application of a hempen rope) all such persons who dare express their sympathies with Jeff. Davis. I tell you what it is, let these "secesh" sympathisers come down here and stay a year and a half, and if they had any sympathy for the Union cause they would be hoeing forth resolutions protesting against the Emancipation Proclamation. I do think all such men ought to be made to leave the country, or be hung. This is the way the Southerners do, even with harmless Union men, in the South, and since our cause is much more valuable than theirs I say as Gen. Hurlbut said in his late speech, "that the Copperheads create a very bad influence on our glorious army." I say they ought, at least, to be made hold their tongues, even if it cost a "free fight" in the North. I think that if Illinois was done away with, the army was not allowed to vote in the different elections since the commencement of this war. Through this the people of the North are daily venturing to show themselves. But "the day of retribution am a coming," and that day will be when this army is disbanded, and the soldiers return to their respective homes, in the North. Then, then will be the time, that many of these black-hearted Northern secesh will have to atone for their miserable low-lived breathings against this unequalled and just Government. Mr. Editor, I shall rest in hopes of hearing better news from the North than what I have been in the habit of hearing lately, in regard to secesh sympathizers. They can set it down that at least seven-eighths of Gen. Grant's army feel as bitterly against them as myself. I can speak for one company, and I know that they would as leave fight them as secesh shot gun cavalry.

I remain yours, &c.,
G. H.
Co. A, 94 Illinois Cavalry.

Col. S. A. Gilbert.

[From the Cincinnati Commercial, 20th.]

These times are developing men. Our armies will finally be provided with leaders. The conduct of Col. S. A. Gilbert, in dispersing the nest of Copperheads at Frankfort, Ky., instills the people. A few more demonstrations like that will restore the failing confidence of the nation. "Such meetings as this you shall not hold within the limits of my command," was sentence resounding with Jacksonian ring. The people of Ohio do not know Col. Sam. A. Gilbert. The traitors and bush-whackers of Western Virginia do. He is a native of Ohio, resident at Zanesville. Early in 1861 he was appointed Lieutenant Colonel of the 24th Ohio volunteer infantry, then commanded by Colonel (now Brigadier General) Jacob Ammen. The regiment soon took position in the first rank among Ohio armies. It arrived at Clarksville, Virginia, in July, 1861, and the excellence of its discipline immediately attracted the attention of Gen. Rosecrans. The police of its camp elicited the encomiums of the soldiers. Said Gen. Rosecrans to an officer: "If you want to see a military camp, go and look at Gilbert's." The writer of this is ready to testify that it was the neatest and most perfectly policed camp he has seen during the war. Colonel Ammen was then commandant of the post of Clarksburg, and the administration of the regiment devolved chiefly upon Lieutenant Colonel Gilbert. It never lost its character. Its valor and firmness at Stone River attested the excellence of its early as well as its later training. It first made history for itself at Cheat Mountain, and its record reflects proud honor upon its soldiers, and upon all who have commanded it.

When the President made the second requisition for three-year volunteers, Lieutenant Colonel Gilbert was appointed Colonel of the 94th regiment, and it was ordered into Western Virginia. The peculiarities of discipline and neatness which had characterized the 24th soon made the 94th conspicuous. In the spring of 1862, it signalized itself in a brilliant action under Brigadier General Crook, in the mountains which circumvallate the tributaries of the Kenawha. Colonel Gilbert distinguished himself by his courage, coolness and skill. He was known there, and subsequently as one of the best of the veteran regiments of Western Virginia. We dare say that at Frankfort it is distinguished for the same traits which signalized it and the 24th in Western Virginia. This excellence in the regiment indicated character, skill and zeal in the officer—attributes which all of his commanders have acknowledged handsomely.

Col. Gilbert is probably about thirty-five years of age. He is a man of vigorous character, and the public are now ready to confess that he possesses firmness and determination. He was never a politician, in the popular sense of that term, but prior to the war he was an earnest Democrat. In his speech to the Kentucky Copperheads, he says with fine scorn: "Under the disguise of that good old name,

FROM COLUMBUS.

[Correspondence of the Chicago Tribune.]

COLUMBUS, Ky., Feb. 10, 1863.

THE CONDITION OF COLUMBUS.

This obscure post may not be as important as many others, but there is no good reason why its comparative insignificance should give those having charge of the interests of the Government, and the lives and health of the soldiers, immunity from praise or blame, according as their conduct is worthy or unworthy.

OUR OFFICERS.

The commander of this district, Brigadier General Asboth, although here but a short time, has, by his frank and courteous manners, his manifest determination to do right, to obey the laws of Congress, and the instructions of the President, as well as by those eminent soldierly qualities which made his name historical before the war began. Already won the respect and confidence of all who are heartily in favor of prosecuting the war to a successful issue.

Col. Martin, of the 11th Illinois, Post Commander, is also a gentleman and soldier—a War Democrat.

Major Rowley, Provost Marshal of the district, and Capt. J. H. Williams, local Provost Marshal, are efficient and loyal officers—men, moreover, who believe that white soldiers, fighting for their country have rights which the "Butternut gentry" hereabout are bound to respect.

Unpleasant, however, as the task may be, it becomes my duty to say that there is one officer at this post whose conduct deserves the severest reprehension—one upon whom, more than all others, the soldier has a right to depend for thoughtful care for his comfort in sickness; one whose duty it is to see that the ample provision made by the charitable women of the North, for the sick soldiers' wants, are not wasted through negligence, or misapplied through design. I refer to the Medical Director at this post. And I risk nothing in saying that of all the lamentable failures developed since this war began, none are more manifest than Doctor Dorcy, Medical Director at the post of Columbus. It is doubtless all right that he should occupy an elegant mansion built by the Government, but is it right that he should waste, in riotous living, those stores provided by loving hands for sons and brothers languishing in hospitals? It is, doubtless, proper enough that the Medical Director should spend his time in the harmless amusement of displaying himself and retinue on the streets, but is it not right that tons of lint and bandages, furnished in many instances, by those who could hardly spare so much, should lay rotting in the mud through the winter rains, because the proper person to direct that care was too much pampered at other sights to spend his time with semi-loyal boon companions. The writer has seen as many as thirty large dry goods boxes of bandages and lint, lying for weeks in the street through all the winter rains, most of them broken open and the contents either stolen and sold for paper rags, or trampled in the mud by the army wagons. And still our Medical Director has always time to attend everybody's business but his own. Can we wonder that our women are tired of taxing their too scanty means to furnish hospital stores, to be wasted by incompetent or squandered by wholly unworthy men. Can we wonder that the soldier becomes discouraged, when he sees daily such neglect of duties receive no reproof? Can he be expected to see the justice of his own punishment, for opposing hunger with a rebel bullet, when he is pampered to offset neglects every duty and disregard every law with impunity?

In conclusion, let me say that the gentlemanly officers of the post are willing that I do not hazard contradiction, when I say that there is not a truly loyal officer or citizen at Columbus who does not regard the granting of a disguise to the army and navy as an outrage which ought to be abated. Yours, N.

Union Victory.

[Correspondence of the Chicago Tribune.]

BRANDYWINE, Ia., Feb. 16, 1863.

To-day we held our municipal election—drove the Copperheads to the wall, and gained a glorious victory. John A. Arens is elected Mayor, over James Shaw, the present incumbent, and candidate of the most virulent Copperheads in the State. The Tories worked hard on the sons of "Erin go-bragh."

But notwithstanding all their efforts, we carried our Mayor by sixty-two majority, where Shaw, the Copperhead candidate, got his five majority last year. We also elected two out of three Aldermen, which gives the

THE FARM AND GARDEN.

Tobacco Culture—Spring Plants—Prairie Farming—Wheat—Corn—Seed—Potatoes—Plants in Hills—Sowing Seed—Cucumbers—Plants to Raise—Corn Planting.

CHARTWOOD, Feb. 19th, 1863.

Tobacco culture is becoming almost a mania in some parts of the country, and thousands of farmers are rushing into the business of them with little or no experience. Essays are being multiplied, and greedily swallowed. Most of these are the refuse of Kentucky and Virginia modes long time canonized in the books of the slave driving cultivators of the weed.

With a different soil and climate, with appliances of new implements, and with intelligent labor, it is our duty to improve on these old systems that are pinching well adapted to the condition of things when they become "the only true modes."

The burning of huge piles of brush to furnish the seed beds with ashes, the risk of late frosts, the storms of sleet and floods of rain, must yield to the hot bed, the comfort hoop and the glazed sash. With these we can secure by the foundation of the crop without regard to time.

We are not going to bother the reader with a long or learned essay, but to point out facts that have been demonstrated on the prairies of Illinois, from year to year. Most of our farmers have no brush heaps to burn over their seed beds. We, here burn stalks in place of it, or make poor beds without the burning at home among the stalks. We make the beds on the ground (here dug hard, then rake slightly, just loosening the surface, on the new) an ounce of seed to 300 square feet of bed space, put down the bed after sowing with a board or the back of a rake, so the seed rests in the soil. To sow so small an amount of seed to the large space, mix it with dry earth or ashes. Cover twigs, branches or some form of other trees, as this is almost absolutely necessary in this mode of growing the plants, to protect them from the sun, and to keep the seed moist, otherwise the seed, being so very small may not sprout. By the way the covering of small brush is invaluable on seedling cabbage beds and all delicate flower seeds, to continue to be gradually removed as the weather gets warmer and the plants mature. If our farmers will take the hint, they will have less complaint of rascally seeds-men.

For the past half a dozen years tobacco plants have been grown in a small way in our grounds by the above mode, without the semblance of a failure, though, of course, not as early as in a glass sash, or on the hot beds. We have never tried pricking out into cold frames, as is practiced with cabbage-plants, but it is probable that this spring, we will get be given forth to become the scorn of freemen wherever liberty is honored. Yet these have been among us. Emboldened by indulgence McHenry, rather than disclose the present oath and grand battle signs, decided to face the Court in common law right that will criminate himself. This is self confessed treason, in himself and compatriots. Will the people now believe? We have more say. Freemen, peace will what we have said.

PROCLAMATION BY THE MAYOR.

MAYOR'S OFFICE, CHICAGO, Feb. 20, 1863.

WHEREAS, Many of the Civic and Military Societies of the city intend to celebrate MONDAY, the 23d day of February instant, the Anniversary of the birthday of the Father of his Country, George Washington; and

WHEREAS, It is desirable that it may be celebrated in a manner worthy of the occasion, and that the day be observed as a holiday thereafter; Therefore, I earnestly invite all good citizens to suspend their ordinary business pursuits after 12 o'clock at noon on said day, and join in the endeavor to awaken in the hearts of the people, the true spirit of patriotism which was the characteristic of the name of WASHINGTON.

JOHN B. RICHARDSON, Mayor.

50 CENTS.—Fever and Ague

and cured without taking Medicine. By a simple application to the seat of disease. Apply and be convinced. Circulars sent free. Agents wanted. Immense testimony given. Sent to any address on receipt of 50 cents. Address DR. C. MORGAN, Box 5,922, New York City.

A WONDER.—The celebrated

GIPSEY WOMAN has just arrived. Hyde will tell your future events for 25 cents. Hyde will tell when the lover of whom will cause you years of sorrow. Hyde will tell when you will be married. Hyde will tell you how to obtain a good situation. Hyde will tell you how to secure a good husband. Hyde will tell you how to get rich. Hyde will tell you how to get married. Single visits $1.00. Hyde will tell you how to get married. Single visits $1.00. Hyde will tell you how to get married. Single

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Comprising all the Most Desirable Styles in market.

Shawls of every description.

WOOLEN HOODS, SKATING CAPS,
BONTAGS, MUFFS,
SCARFS, COMFORTS,
ALL AT GREATLY REDUCED PRICES.

To close the Season

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At less price than they can now be bought.

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AND RIBBONS.

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☞ The attention of the trade is called to the above prices.

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NEW STYLES OF DICK COHEN,

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SEWING MACHINES.

Invented in 1845—Perfected in 1865.

Signal reward to the great American Inventor. Premium issued by the Howe Sewing Machine Co., Bridgeport, Conn., for the second machine ever made, the first, and the only one now in use, bearing the date of 1845.

HOWE MACHINE

Took the Imperial Gold Medal, at the first World's Fair for excellency of Machine; also four other Medals for excellency of Work; also four Honorable Mentions for special merits, at the late Fair of the American Institute, New York, in competition with all other Sewing Machines. Has been awarded more First Premiums than any other Machine. Has been awarded more First Premiums than any other Machine. Has been awarded more First Premiums than any other Machine

Chicago Tribune

MONDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 22, 1864

THE CITY.